



BY THE KING.

13. 9 A Proclamation for the Assembling the Members of both Houses at Oxford, upon occasion of the Invasion by the Scots.



HEREAS We did by Our Proclamation, bearing date the twentieth day of June last, upon due consideration of the miseries of this Kingdom, and the true cause thereof, warne all Our good Subjects no longer to be misled by the Votes, Orders, and pretended Ordinances of One or Both Houses, by reason the Members do not enjoy the Freedom and Liberty of Parliament, which appeares by severall instances of Force and Violence, and by the course of their proceedings mentioned in Our laid Proclamation, and severall of Our Declarations: since which time Our Subjects of Scotland have made great and Warlike preparations to enter and invade this Kingdome with an Army, and have already actually invaded the same, by possessing themselves, by force of Armes, of Our Towne of Barwick, upon pretence that they are invited thereunto by the desires of the two Houses; the which as we doubt not all Our good Subjects of this Kingdome will look upon as the most insolent Act of Ingratitude and disloyalty, and to the apparent breach of the late Act of Pacification so solemnly made between the Kingdomes, and is indeed no other then a designe of Conquest, and to impose new Lawes upon this Nation, they not so much as pretending the least provocation or violation from this Kingdom: so We are most assured that the Major part of both Houses of Parliament doe from their soules abhorre the least thought of introducing that Forraigne Power, to encrease and make desperate the miseries of their unhappy Country. And therefore that it may appeare to all the world how far the Major part of both Houses is from such Actions of Treason & disloyalty, and how grossly those few Members remaining at Westminster have and do impose upon Our People, We do Will and require such of the Members of both Houses, as well those who haue been by the Faction of the Maligant Party expelled for performing their duty to Us, and into whose roomes no Persons have been since chosen by their Country, as the rest who have been driventhence, and all those who being conscious of their want of Freedom, now shall be willing to withdraw from that Rebellious City, to assemble themselves together at Our City of Oxford, on Munday the twenty second day of January, where care shall be taken for their severall Accommodations, and fit places appointed for their meeting, and where all Our good Subjects shall see how willing We are to receive Advice for the Preservation of the Religion, Lawes and safety of the Kingdome, and, as farre as in Us lyes, to restore it to its former Peace and Security (Our chiefe and only end) from those whom they have trusted, though We cannot receive it in the place where We appointed. And for the better encouragement of those Members of either House to resort to Us, who may be conscious to themselves of having justly incurred Our displeasure by submitting to, or concurring in unlawfull actions; And that all the World may see how willing and desirous We are to forget the Injuries & Indignities offered to Us, and by an Union of English hearts, to prevent the lasting miseries which this Forraigne Invasion must bring upon this Kingdome, We doe offer a free and Generall Pardon to all the Members of either House, who shall at, or before the said twenty second day of January appeare at Our City of Oxford, and desire the same, without Exceptions: which considering the manifest Treasons committed against Us, and the condition We are now in, improved by Gods wonderfull blessing to a better degree then We have enjoyed at any time since these Distracti-
ons, is the greatest instance of Princely and Fatherly Care of Our People that can be expressed, and which Malice it selfe cannot suggest to proceed from any other ground. And therefore We hope, and are confident, that all such who upon this Our gratiouse Invitation will not returne to their duty and Allegiance, shall be no more thought Promoters of the Religion, Lawes and Liberty of the Kingdome (which this way may be, without doubt, settled and secured) but Persons enga-
ged from the beginning, out of their owne Pride, Malice, and Ambition, to bring confusion and desolation upon their Country, and to that purpose (having long since contrived the Designe) to invite and joyne with a Forraigne Nation to ruine and extinguish their owne, and shall accordingly be pursued as the most desperate and malitious Enemies of the Kingdome. And Our Pleasure is, That this Our Proclamation be read in all Churches and Chappells within this Our Kingdome, and Dominion of Wales. Given at Our Court at OXFORD, the 22nd day of December, in the Nineteenth yeare of Our Reigne. 1643.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

(325.)